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The key question is where, when, and to what extent the bombing and mining will affect North Vietnam.

The time frame is especially important. We need an assessment of the impact now, in September-October, and by early 1973. What will be the principal problems during each time period? Which aspects of their problems get greater? In what instances will the North be able to take compensating actions to ameliorate problems?

The analysis of the economic impact should identify the problems, or lack of problems, in each major economic sector. For example, what are the implications of low fertilizer imports? What other agricultural inputs are essential? What agricultural products will be affected and to what degree? When? What are the implications of reductions in the power supply? Will power for pumping or irrigation be limited? How does the bombing affect communications?

The studies should differentiate between the effects of import denial and the effects of bomb destruction and disruption.

A comparison with the 1965-68 campaign would also be useful, especially identification of similarities and differences in the effects in the North.

Other areas which justify critical detailed analysis include:

-- The question of NVN's stocks. What are normal stocks? What types of stocks will be exhausted first?

-- The level of current imports. What imports are getting in? What magnitude?

-- The impact if imports are held below essential minimum levels. Your July 6 paper estimates a minimal essential import level but it does not indicate what happens if imports are below that level.

-- The manpower situation. A comprehensive analysis of manpower strains including the effects of past and future draft calls is needed. The study should deal with age and sex groups and with different geographic areas; problems in certain skill areas including management should be identified.

-- The impact on battlefield support. What specific items does the North's economy supply to the battlefields? How does the air campaign affect this supply?

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